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## Annual Meeting of the American Peace Society.

Notice is hereby repeated of the Eighty-fourth Annual Meeting of the American Peace Society, which will be held in the Hotel Raleigh, Washington, D. C., May 10, 1912, at 2 o'clock p. m. The business will be the hearing of the annual reports of the board of directors and of the treasurer, final action on the plan of reorganization (with revised constitution), which was adopted in substance at the special meeting held on the 8th of December last, the election of officers and directors for the coming year, and the transaction of any other business that may properly come before the meeting.

BENJAMIN F. TRUEBLOOD,  
*Secretary.*

## Editorial Notes.

### The Eighteenth of May

The observance of the eighteenth of May, the anniversary of the opening of the first Hague Conference, as Peace Day in the schools, has now become so general throughout the country that there is hardly any longer need to urge it upon superintendents and teachers. The custom originated in Massachusetts in 1905, when Mr. George H. Martin, secretary of the State Board of Education, on the suggestion of the American Peace Society, issued a circular to all the city and other superintendents of the State recommending that the day be observed with exercises of such a nature as to inculcate love of peace and a patriotism of a higher and finer order than that of the past. From this beginning the custom spread to other States, and now the Department of Education in several States has put the eighteenth of May on its regular list of annual memorial days. This year the observance will be more widely extended than ever before. The State branches of the American School Peace League are making it a special feature of their propaganda. The peace organizations are also calling particular attention to the day this spring. In Chicago the Peace Society has undertaken a large program of sectional school meetings in all parts of the great city. The same is true in other places. Let our friends everywhere do their full share in promoting the keeping of this important anniversary. The opening of the first Hague Conference, on the eighteenth of May, 1899, was the commencement of a new era in the history of the world, an era which is to see war die and the nations live together in friendship, trust, and mutual service. Let the children's minds be turned toward the future, and fed upon the great ideals which are carrying humanity steadily upward toward the time when the nations will be so busy with seeking and promoting each others' good that they will have neither time nor disposition to fight and destroy.

### No New Battleships.

At a meeting of the Democratic caucus on Wednesday night, March 27, the decision reached at a caucus held some weeks ago, that no appropriations should be made this year for new battleships, was reaffirmed. Mr. Padgett, of Tennessee, chairman of the House Committee on Naval Affairs, had moved to rescind the action of the former caucus and that appropriation be made for one battleship. This motion was laid on the table by a vote of 117 to 25. Mr. Underwood, the majority leader in the House, then moved that the action of the former caucus, eliminating appropriations both for battleships and public buildings, be made a party measure. This motion received the votes of more than two-thirds of the members of the caucus. In consequence of this caucus decision, the Naval Committee, in the bill which it will soon present to Congress, will not ask for the usual appropriations for battleships, but will make liberal provision for smaller craft. The action of the caucus in declining to make appropriations for new battleships this year seems to have been taken chiefly, if not wholly, on economic grounds. We regret that the decision was not also based on higher and more commanding grounds. The economic reason for not increasing the navy beyond its present limits is a very strong and imperious one, but it is by no means the strongest or the most urgent. Certain obligations which we have to the sisterhood of nations in the way of continued leadership in the movement for permanent international peace impose upon us limitation of armaments even more powerfully than any argument drawn from the urgent present need of economy, great as that is. It is regrettable also that public buildings were associated with battleships in the resolution. The two have no necessary connection with each other in the matter of retrenchment. Much-needed public buildings, as well as many other things, have often had to go begging because of the excessive outlays on naval expansion.

### The Centenary of Peace.

As the time draws near which will mark the completion of a century of peace between this country and Great Britain, interest in the proper celebration of the event deepens, and preparations are beginning to be made on a scale that gives promise of something worthy of the occasion when it arrives. The leaders of the National Committee in New York are promoting the organization of local committees in many of the larger cities of the country, especially those on the Atlantic and Gulf seaboard and along the Canadian border, which were more or less involved in the War of 1812. A committee of one hundred has been organized in Washington, of which the following members constitute the executive